CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

predominantly comprises water.

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1. A process for providing a polymeric colloid, said process comprising:
dissolving a polymer in a first solvent to form a first solution;
adding a second solvent to the first solution to form a second solution;
adding a third solvent to the second solution to provide the polymeric colloid,
wherein: (a) the first, second and third solvents have Drago polarities differing by less
than 0.2; (b) the second solvent is miscible with the third solvent; and (c) the third solvent

- 2. The process of claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of poly (dl-lactide-co-glycolide) (PLGA), poly(lactic acid) (PLA) and poly(ε-caprolactone) (PCL).
- 3. The process of claim 1, wherein the first solvent is tetrahydrofuran (THF) or N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP).
- 4. The process of claim 1, wherein the second solvent alters a polarity of the first solution.
 - 5. The process of claim 1, wherein the second solvent is acetone.
- 6. The process of claim 5, wherein the polymer comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of poly (dl-lactide-co-glycolide) (PLGA), poly(lactic acid) (PLA) and poly(\varepsilon-caprolactone) (PCL), and the first solvent is tetrahydrofuran (THF) or N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP).
 - 7. The process of claim 6, wherein the third solvent consists essentially of water.
- 8. The process of claim 1, wherein the first solvent has a first Drago polarity of 0.80-0.99, the second solvent has a second Drago polarity of 0.80-0.99 and the third solvent has a third Drago polarity of 0.80-0.99.
- 9. The process of claim 1, wherein the second solution is a miscible single-phase system.
- 10. The process of claim 1, conducted without an emulsifying agent, a stabilizing agent and mechanical emulsification.
 - 11. The process of claim 1, wherein the polymeric colloid comprises nanoparticles.
- 12. The process of claim 1, wherein at least about 70 wt.% of the polymer is converted to particles of the polymeric colloid.

WO 2005/015160 PCT/US2004/025500

13. The process of claim 12, wherein a size of the particles is a function of a viscosity, a concentration and a polarity of at least one of the first, second and third solvents.

- 14. The process of claim 1, further comprising removing at least a portion of the solvents from the polymeric colloid under reduced vapor pressure.
- 15. The process of claim 1, further comprising adding at least one additional polymer to the second solution along with the third solvent, such that the polymeric colloid possesses a property of the at least one additional polymer.
- 16. The process of claim 15, wherein the at least one additional polymer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of (poly(styrenesulfonate), poly(acrylic acid sodium salt), poly(allylamine), poly(L-lysine-HCl), heparin sulfate, sulfated proteoglycans, collagen, alginic acid sodium salt and hyaluronic acid.
 - 17. A polymeric colloid provided by the process of claim 1.

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- 18. The polymeric colloid of claim 17, comprising a plurality of particles having a mean diameter of about 0.001 nm to about 1000 nm.
- 19. The polymeric colloid of claim 17, comprising a plurality of particles containing a composite of: (a) a first component derived from the polymer in the first solvent; and (b) a second component derived from a second polymer added to the second solution along with the third solvent.
- 20. The polymeric colloid of claim 19, wherein the second component is derived from a second polymer selected from the group consisting of (poly(styrenesulfonate), poly(acrylic acid sodium salt), poly(allylamine), poly(L-lysine-HCl), heparin sulfate, sulfated proteoglycans, collagen, alginic acid sodium salt and hyaluronic acid.
- 21. The polymeric colloid of claim 19, wherein the first component is derived from poly (dl-lactide-co-glycolide) and the second component is derived from (poly(styrenesulfonate), poly(acrylic acid sodium salt), poly(L-lysine-HCl) or heparin.
- 22. The polymeric colloid of claim 21, wherein the particles have a mean diameter of 200 nm to 500 nm.
- 23. The polymeric colloid of claim 21, wherein the particles have a zeta potential different from a reference zeta potential of a reference particle consisting essentially of poly (dl-lactide-co-glycolide).